



MANUEL
CARLOS JORGE
DO NASCIMENTO

Manuel Carlos, the 11th and last child of Carlos Lourenço Jorge (1833-1925) and Maria de Jesus do Nascimento (1840-?), was born in Corvo on April 18, 1885.

His father was a whaler until he was about 40 years old, and had been to Chile in the port of Talcahuano and the city of Concepción.

What would Corvo and life in Corvo have been like at that time? Certainly not very different from that which Raul Brandão witnessed and immortalized in his work *As Ilhas Desconhecidas* (*The Unknown Islands*), the result of his trip to the Azores in 1924, when he spent 13 days on Corvo.

As a boy, Manuel Carlos would take part in the games with other children, go swimming in the summer and little else. When he reached the appropriate age, he started school and completed his schooling with Father Tomé Gregório de Mendonça, in the church. Early on, he stood out because of his flair for numbers and letters. So much so, in fact, that he started teaching literacy to adults.

His knowledge was increasing as a result of reading the books that his seminarian brother (Francisco) had gathered. At the same time, he helped with the work in the fields, and when older, went whaling in the vicinity of the island. His father, who was on American whaling boats until he was 36 years old, had always told him of many adventures and described the places where he had been. Many of these descriptions matched what he had read in the work *Moby Dick*, one of the books from his brother's library.

As he passed into adulthood, when he would have to decide what to do with his life, the idea of leaving was taking root in the young man's mind. His father had spoken to him of his mother's brother who had gone to Chile with three more Corvinos. Three of them were in Concepción and his uncle João had settled in Santiago, where he owned a bookshop. This was the destination he chose. His father advised him to first pass through California where three of his brothers (Pedro, João and José) were already working in the hotel business. Maybe he held out the secret hope that Manuel Carlos would end up staying with them.

At the end of July 1905, Manuel Carlos left Corvo for Terceira, where he stayed a few days with his brother Francisco who would shortly become a priest. Then he went to Horta, where boarded a whaler on its way to New Bedford. When he arrived, he travelled across the country by train to San Francisco to join his brothers, with whom he worked for about three months.

“Manuel also went to Chile. We tried to persuade him not to, but it was impossible. But maybe it was better for him to go. We offered him work and I told him that I would teach him to wait tables and that we would give him forty pesos a month, but even then he would not stay. He has not written from Chile, but we are hoping for a letter from him soon.

Merced, 5th December, 1905.”

This is how his brother Joseph told of the departure of Manuel Carlos, in a letter to their parents.

¹ In Chile, Manuel Carlos chose to change his name from Jorge to George. This is because he definitely did not want to be called [horhe] (the approximate transcription of the Spanish pronunciation for Jorge). By changing his name to George, the pronunciation of the name would be as close as possible to the Portuguese.

This itinerary, dedicated to Corvo native, Manuel Carlos Jorge do Nascimento, will be the reverse of presentations of cultural routes in the Azores published to date. The “flow” of the text will give a historical description of the island of Corvo, so that the reader can find a more real perspective to frame the life of Carlos Manuel and how he came to be who he was.

Mystical and occasionally fantastical Corvo

At the top of Ponta do Marco, the first settlers on the island might have found an equestrian statue, the rider with his arm raised, pointing westward, a gesture to be interpreted as a sign that there were other lands to discover.



It was the chronicler Damião de Góis (1502-1574) who was mainly responsible for this version of events. In his chronicle about Prince Dom João, he speaks of: “... a stone statue set on a slab of rock, a man atop a bony horse, dressed in a heavy cloak with his head uncovered, one hand on the horse’s mane, and his right arm extended, the fingers curled, except for the second finger, which the Latin people call the index finger, pointing west.”

“This image, that in all its mass came from the same slab, King Dom Manuel ordered to be drawn in its natural place by a sketcher in his service named Duarte D’Armas; and after he saw the sketch, he sent a man of ingenuity from the city of Porto, who had spent much time in Italy, to the island, with the equipment to take that relic. When he returned, he told the king that he

thought the statue had been broken apart by a storm the previous winter. But the truth was that he had broken it by misfortune, and had brought pieces of it, namely the man’s head, the right arm with the hand, a leg, the horse’s head, and a hand bent and raised, and a piece of a leg. All of this was in the king’s court for some days, but what then became of these things, or where they were put, I never knew.”

The chronicler also states that Pero da Fonseca, the Captain of the donee, when he was in Flores and Corvo in 1529: “... heard from the residents [of Corvo] that on the rock below where the statue had been, some letters were carved in that rock. As it was dangerous to go down to where the letters were, they lowered some men on well attached ropes, who took an imprint of the letters in wax which they had taken with them to this end, as the ancient letters were not totally erased; but what they brought up printed in the wax was already very worn and almost shapeless and as such, or perhaps because no person in that company had any knowledge of letters other than Latin, and this imperfect, no one there could tell what the letters said, or even know what the letters were.”

The Azorean historians Gaspar Frutuoso (1522-1591) - *The Sixth Book of Longing for the Lands* - and António Cordeyro (1641-1722) - *A History of the Islands Subject to Portugal in the Western Ocean* - make brief references to the statue.

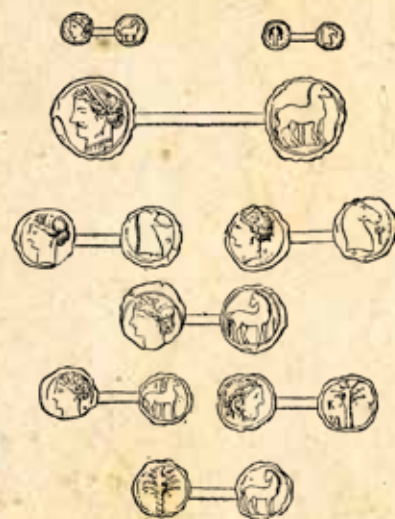
Frutuoso says that the horseman pointed in the direction where a new island called Garça could be found, that “North of Terceira can be seen in the summer. Of this I say no more, but that it was a remarkable antiquity.” Antonio Cordeyro, referring to Corvo said: “It is also called the Marco Island,



because although no sign or trace of human people was found on the Island, a fateful stone statue was found on a high rock above the sea, consisting of a horse and rider, mysteriously pointing to the setting sun, and more directly northwest.”

Friar Diogo das Chagas (1575-1667), whose brother Inácio Coelho (1575-1643), was the vicar of Corvo from 1608 until a date unknown, makes no mention of the subject in his work *Crystal Mirror in the Garden of Many Flowers*.

One more item on a possible discovery of Phoenician and Punic coins on Corvo: a stormy night in 1749 brought into view a clay pot with Carthaginian and Cyrenaic coins. Some of these coins were sent to Lisbon and from there, nine of them came to Father Enrique Flórez in Madrid. This priest was one of the biggest Iberian coin collectors of the time. In 1761, Flórez gave the coins to the Swede Podolyn, who, in Vol. I (1778) of the journal *Göteborgske Wetenskap og Witterhets Samlingar*, published an article in Gothenburg (translated): “Some notes on ancient journeys, derived from several Carthaginian and Cyrenaic coins found in 1749 in one of the islands of the Azores.”



Historical or possibly real Corvo

It cannot be by chance that existing documentation on the discovery of the Azores is scarce. Thus, to avoid any uncertainty, the story of Corvo will start from existing documents which are valid and reliable.

On November 28, 1474, King Afonso V donated to Fernão Teles, as well as the islands that he could discover, as long as they were not in the Gulf of Guinea, the “islands called Flores which shortly before Diogo de Teive and his son João de Teive had found (...) that such he had found and still had.”

Proof of his discovery may be found in the work of the son of Christopher Columbus, Ferdinand Columbus, *Le Historie della Vita e dei Fatti di Cristoforo Colombo*. There he stated that Diogo de Teive had sailed 150 leagues west of Faial and that, on observing land birds on his return, he decided to follow this direction, and thus discovered the two westernmost islands of the Azorean archipelago.

So far, the date of the discovery of Corvo, more or less accepted, has been 1452. However, there is no doubt that, in 1474, Corvo and Flores were owned by the Teive family. At that time Fernão Teles bought Corvo from the son of Diogo de Teive, João de Teive (see above, donation from Dom Afonso V, November 28, 1474).

It can be determined from the existing documentation that, until it was raised to the status of municipality in the nineteenth century (1832), the island belonged to the following families and entities:

- The Teive family, 1452-1474;
- The Teles family, 1474-1503;
- The Fonseca family, 1503-1548;
- The Sousa family, 1548-1593;
- The Mascarenhas family, earls of Santa Cruz (das Flores) and dukes of Aveiro), 1593-1759;
- To the Crown, 1759-1815;
- Pedro José Caupers (for three lives), 1815-1832.



In 1507, Flores and Corvo were still registered as unpopulated. In 1508, Antão Vaz and his brother Lopo Vaz, Castilian residents of Terceira, went to the two islands, Antão to Corvo and Lopo to Flores. They returned to Terceira shortly after without the success they had hoped for in populating the islands. A new attempt was carried out by the three Barcelos brothers (1515-1526), with the same result.

Only in 1548, when Gonçalo de Sousa was confirmed as landlord of the two islands did the island finally gain a permanent population. Friar Diogo das Chagas said, “and then he sent his trusted slaves (...) who farmed the island and looked after their cattle, which were many.” A few years later, more people from Flores went to the island: “here in these lowlands the first people began to settle, children and grandchildren of those from Flores Island (...) and so attracted others, and their numbers were multiplied by those who were born here” continues Chagas. In turn, Gaspar Fructuoso (at the end of the 16th century), in his chapter on Corvo, already speaks of a population living “in straw houses, in a neighbourhood of up to twenty, tenants and negroes of the landlord, and some slaves and mulattos married to slaves.”

It is easy to imagine the gradual increase in the population in the following decades, with a wider and better use of farmlands.

In 1593, the two islands passed to the Mascarenhas, counts of Santa Cruz. From then on, Corvo went into a crisis that gradually grew and only came to an end in the middle of the 19th century. Some of the factors which surely gave rise to this situation, were: (i) the rising cost of rents; (ii) the sharp increase of population; (iii) the fragile “life relationship” with the outside world and the self-sufficiency of food that it forced upon them; (iv) the inability to significantly increase the area of farmland; (v) the frequent incursions of pirates.

These effects are related in a document of the Council of Santa Cruz, accompanying a petition from the Corvo population in 1768 to the Azores Captain-General, Dom Antão d’Almada. It stated “the wheat harvests are not enough to pay the rent and tithe and still have seed to sow (...) so the residents are forced (...) to eat what they can harvest from sedge, a little corn (...) and they burn straw instead of wood (...) men and women go about half naked.”

Regarding the increase in population, Diogo das Chagas was aware of it and said, “and so it was settled in such a way that the inhabitants no longer fit there today.” In his description, it was stated that the Corvinos, 720 of them at that time, were forced to live “two or three couples in one straw hut.”

He also mentions the inability to increase the area of farmland due to the harsh nature of a part of the island and the collapse of arable land in 1766, in addition to a gradual decline of the farmlands.

In 1759, the island came to belong to the Crown due to confiscation of the property of the Duke of Aveiro, José Mascarenhas. However, the high rents were maintained and, by decree of December 3, 1814, King João VI, while still in Rio de Janeiro, granted Pedro José Caupers, a servant at his court, the benefit of the rents that had belonged to the Captains of the donee on the islands of Flores and Corvo. The deed of this tenure was celebrated in Rio de Janeiro on March 6, 1815 and was valid for three lives.

In May 1832, taking advantage of the presence of the Prince Regent on Terceira, a delegation from Corvo went to that island to complain about the harsh conditions in which the population was living. A decree of May 12 of that year reduced the rent to 120 baskets of wheat and abolished the monetary portion (80,000 réis). The rent reduced gradually until it was quashed in 1853. Since that moment, says Macedo – *A History of the Four Islands which Form the District of Horta – (1871)*: “the island began to progress, its people to devote themselves to cultivating the land and raising cattle, and they secured enough not only for their sustenance and clothing, but also to supply the ships which often dock there”.

One indicator of this improvement is the fact that house roofs were all tiled by 1871. The existence from 1845 of a boys’ elementary school should also be highlighted. In 1871, evening classes were started for adults, according to Macedo in his aforementioned work.

There was also a certain increase in population. The known values from the middle to the end of the 19th century are as follows:

- 1842 – 800 inhabitants and 190 houses
- 1864 – 883 inhabitants
- 1871 – 887 inhabitants and 201 houses
- 1878 – 880 inhabitants
- 1890 – 806 inhabitants
- 1900 – 808 inhabitants

Starting in the last quarter of the century, there was a decrease in population. This was indubitably due to the emigration that began to occur. Most of it was to the United States and sometimes to whaling. But there were also, in smaller numbers, Corvinos who went to Brazil and Chile. It was to the latter that Manuel Carlos Jorge do Nascimento headed in 1915, when Corvo's population no longer reached 700 souls.

It would not be fair to end this brief report without mentioning Mouzinho da Silveira, minister of the kingdom, who played a major role in changes which took place in Corvo, from 1832. It was thanks to him that Corvo first achieved the reduction of rents and also its administrative autonomy, with the rise in status from settlement to town and the creation of the Town Council, by the decree of June 21 of that year.

The people of Corvo were forever in his heart, so much so that he left the following in his will: "I want my body to be buried in the cemetery of the island of Corvo, the smallest of the Azores (...); They are grateful and good people, and now I like the idea of being surrounded, when I die, with the people in my life who dared to be grateful".

This wish was not carried out. The only honour that the people of Corvo conceded him was to give his name to the new school on the island.



JOSE XAVIER MOUSINHO DA SILVEIRA

"I left, asking myself if I would see this rock again, whose loneliness awakens a sense of rest in the souls of those who struggle against a difficult life."

(Prince Albert I of Monaco)

"When girls embark for America, they even hug the stones goodbye. Corvo is a world."

(Raul Brandão, on leaving)

"If happiness were possible in the world, the island would be a place in it."

(Fernando Dacosta)

"Personally, I have no doubts with Corvo: this could be the island of my rest before my rest becomes eternal. (...) Corvo is at the centre of the universe."

(João de Melo)



- 1905** (early December). After reaching Valparaíso, he moved to Santiago, where he met his maternal uncle, João Nascimento. His uncle had founded the bookshop Librería Nascimento at 125 Ahumada Street. As there was no work with his uncle, he then moved on to Concepción, where were the other three Corvo natives. He found a job in the pawnshop La Campana owned by the brothers Coelho and started attending evening classes in accounting. A while later, he became friends with a young Chilean woman, Rosa Elena, who worked in a furniture store and who, by coincidence, had arrived to Concepción on exactly the same day Manuel Carlos had arrived from Santiago.
- 1915** Manuel Carlos married Rosa Elena Márquez Inostroza (9th May).
- 1916** María Helena, the first child of the couple, was born (19th June).
- 1917** Following the death of his uncle João, Manuel Carlos moved to Santiago where he took over the business of Librería Nascimento after buying the rights from the remaining heirs. That same year, he founded Nascimento Publishers. His first publication was a new edition of Geografía Elemental by Luis Caviedes in the University Press of Dávila Basterrica. His uncle had already carried out a first edition of the work which was sold out at that time. Referring to the beginning of his publishing work, Manuel Carlos said: "I knew as much about both selling and making books them as I know about flying a plane today."
- 1917** His first son, Carlos Lorenzo, was born (16th November).
- 1918** His second daughter, Elena Ester, was born (30th November).
- 1918** Manuel Carlos joined Raúl Simón (César Cascabel) and Eduardo Barrios, who helped him make contact with the Chilean intellectual milieu. Together, they published El hermano asno, written by the former of the two partners, Cien nuevas crónicas, by the latter partner, and La señorita Ana by Rafael Maluenda.
- 1922** That year, Manuel Jorge, now working alone, published Sus mejores poemas by the poet Pedro Antonio González.
- 1922** He also published Lo que no se ha dicho by Teresa Wilms Montt.
- 1923** Manuel Carlos bought an old Marinoni press and shortly after a linotype machine, installed at 1434 Arturo Prat Street, where the Typography and Publishing were then carried out.
- 1923** Publication of the 1st Chilean edition of Desolation by Gabriela Mistral (future Nobel prize winner).
- 1923** Publication of Montaña adentro by Marta Brunet.
- 1924** Birth of Julio Mario George (2nd December).
- 1930** Start of literary meetings at noon every Saturday in the Librería Nascimento. Many of the best known Chilean writers took part.
- 1931** Launch of the first catalogue of Nascimento Publishers with a list of all works published to date. It included an index by sections, as well the next releases and future publications.
- 1933** Publication of Residencia en la Tierra by Pablo Neruda (Nefalí Reyes) which contained his poetry he produced between 1925 and 1931.
- 1936** Manuel Carlos was named Honorary Vice Consul of Portugal in Chile.
- 1938** Manuel Carlos was elected the first president of the Association of Chilean Printers.
- 1939** The Concepción branch of the bookshop was destroyed by the 1939 earthquake (24th January). (photo 1)
- 1940** Start of the twenty-volume publication (11,760 pages), of the work A History of Chile: from prehistory until 1891 by Francisco Encina.
- 1944** Death of Manuel Carlos's wife, María Elena Márquez.
- 1948** Removal of the bookshop to 240 San Antonio st. and later to the 390 of the same street (own installations).
- 1948** Manuel Carlos, accompanied by his daughter María Elena, visited his native island where (photo 2), to recall the "old days", he went whaling. On his return, he went via California to see his brothers.
- 1950** Foundation of the Cámara Chilena del Libro, in which Manuel Carlos participated.
- 1951** Publication of the book Hijo de Ladrón by Manuel Rojas.
- 1953** Nascimento Publishers promoted its first and only literary competition. The winner was the writer Ciro Alegría with novel La serpiente de oro.
- 1956** Manuel Carlos became Honorary Consul of Portugal in Chile (until his death).
- 1966** Manuel Carlos died from pancreatic cancer (12th January). On the 25th of the same month, a posthumous tribute took place, in which he was awarded the Gold Medal of the City of Santiago. His son Carlos continued to ensure the publishing activity of the company.
- 1971** Start of pocket book collection: Biblioteca Popular Nascimento.



- 1978** Following the closure of the Librería Nascimento, the “Agrupación de Amigos del Libro” performed a ceremony commemorating 102 years of the bookshop and the 60th Anniversary of Nascimento Publishers.

Nascimento 102

See in my calendar the thankful event,
A reason for great literary excitement:
September has brought a new anniversary
Of our great house, Nascimento.

Poets’ names bring it content,
Writers, much needed craft
And readers who benefit from
This cultural and dazzling gift.

In memory of Manuel Carlos, I harvest the corn,
And pass it on to his children out of affection
For the long friendship that will help it thrive.

Today, at a century and two years of the project,
A living reality, nobility obliges
A salute for this feast of intellect.

(Victor Franzani – translated)



- 1986** Permanent closure of Publisher and Typography (August). Over the time of its existence, it published more than 6,000 works. It is of note that, of the 37 authors awarded the National Literature Prize before 1986, 35 were published by Nascimento. The last work to be published was *Aproximación histórica-folklórica de los juegos en Chile* by Oreste Plath.
- 1995** Failed attempt to open a Librería Nascimento at 2349 Providencia Street, on the part of his granddaughter Ximena George-Nascimento.
- 1998** Death of Carlos Lorenzo in Santiago (30th December).
- 2004** Death of Julio Mario (13th September) and María Helena (6th December) in Santiago.
- 2004** The Regional Directorate for Culture published the book *Carlos G. Nascimento. Co-architect of Chilean Letters* by Vásquez de Acuña.
- 2010** Manuel Carlos was posthumously awarded the Medal of Autonomic Insignia for Professional Merit of the Autonomous Region of the Azores (24th May).
- 2013** The jury of the Consejo Nacional de la Cultura y las Artes awarded first place to the work of Filipe Reyes Nascimento. The publisher of the Chileans in the contest Escrituras de la Memoria, Obras Inéditas, 2013.
- 2014** Death of Elena Ester in San José, Costa Rica.
- 2014** Opening of the exhibition on the life and work of Manuel Carlos, in the Chilean National Library, entitled *Nascimento, from sea to sea, a publishing Odyssey* (10th December) (photo 3). During the exhibition an excerpt from the documentary on Corvo by Gonçalo Tocha was shown, *It's the Earth, Not the Moon* (2011), winner of the international competition of the 9th edition of the Doclisboa Festival.
- 2015** Closure of the exhibition (12th March) with the premiere of the film by Zeca Medeiros *The bookseller of Santiago*.
- 2015** Second edition of the book by Filipe Reyes including two new chapters (18th April).
- 2015** The great-grandson of Manuel Carlos, Pablo Farba George-Nascimento, registered Nascimento Publishers again. Its activities include the production of music festivals and the direction of artistic shows.
- 2016** The Chilean Embassy and the National Library of Lisbon inaugurated an exhibition on Manuel Carlos on 10th May, which will be open to the public until 31st August.

A TOUR OF VILA DO CORVO in the TIME OF MANUEL CARLOS¹

CORVO VILLAGE



scale: 1/10 000
source: DRT, 2006



Rua - Street
Avenida - Avenue
Caminho, Canada - Road
Largo, Praça - Square



¹ This route through Vila do Corvo is based on a proposal which, following the precepts of the Ecomuseum, took contributions from the population as part of the Corvo Ecomuseum project. The current route was born out of the relevant comments and suggestions and, due to its limited nature, includes a small part of those contributions.



Ribeirão was the obligatory crossing point for those who wanted to go to the land “back there/down there”. This was the common name for the farming land that lay to the west of the town. Two of the streets that converge on this place, from the north and from the south, began as

gullies dug out by the flow of rainwater and, for a long time, were the dividing line between the settlement and the land. Nowadays, the style of housing that has passed that line to the west has significantly altered the traditional look of the old hamlet.



As this route is mainly dedicated to the Vila do Corvo native, who became a distinguished publisher in Chile, there is nothing better than seeing the house where he was born and lived until 1905, when he left for that country. So, the next destination will be the Largo da Cancela. To get there, you take a

right onto the street that is in front of the Post Office. It is called Caminho do Carro (cart path) because for a long time it was the only means of access for the old ox carts. At the end, turn right and you soon come to the Largo da Cancela square. The entrance to the house is by a gate on the left of the fountain. You go through the courtyard which takes you to the living quarters. It is a traditional two-storey Vila do Corvo house. On the ground floor, there was a storage space and a kitchen. On the upper floor, which was built in the early twentieth century on the initiative of a brother of Manuel Carlos, Father Francisco Lourenço Jorge, there were bedrooms and the living room.



A TOUR OF VILA DO CORVO in the TIME OF MANUEL CARLOS



Next come out and follow the Marouço – which joins onto Largo da Cancela – up the Ladeira do Outeiro until you come to the square of the same name. Outeiro was the gathering point for men at the end of the day, after their work in the fields. Here you will find the house of Espírito Santo (A). Here too are the premises of the Corvo Agricultural Cooperative – the house at the end of the square (C) – where the daily skimming of the cream from the milk took place, with which they used to make a delicious butter, exported to the mainland in 5 kg cans. The Finance services were housed in the building opposite the Espírito Santo until the late 60s (B). The first house on the right side of the hill that you came up was the seat of the City Council (D) and, at the end of the houses and closing the Outeiro (E), was the prison. It had never been used until 1924 and was a shelter for cows! For those who are interested in knowing what life was like at that time, you are recommended to read *The Unknown Islands (As Ilhas Desconhecidas)* by Raul Brandão. You could say that the Outeiro was really the true heart of Corvo life for many years. Decisions which affected the entire population were made there by the elders.

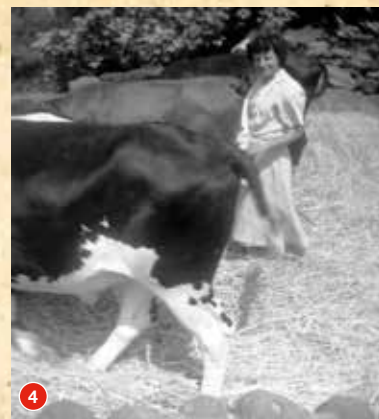


Next, go up the Ladeira do Outeiro to the junction with Fonte de Cima Street. Then turn left onto Canada do Graciosa until the first building, oblong in shape. There is a quern inside which is more or less identical to the original ones that existed in the settlement and belonged to several owners (there were 5 querns). The querns did the work of mills: they ground grain for their owners and were moved by an animal.



Turn back again onto the Ladeira do Outeiro and go up the Ladeira do Maranhão on the left. On a bend in the road further up you can still see remains of the old paving, with which all the streets were paved before: they would put larger stones in the middle for people to get about more easily, and the remainder was made up of smaller paving stones. On the bend in the road, against the house on the right, you can see some large, round boulders: they were to prevent ox cart wheels from crashing into the walls of the house. The street stones came from the seafront. On this same bend on the left, you can see a door that still retains its old wooden lock.

In the bottom corner of the square (F), you can see an old circular threshing floor on the left where wheat was threshed by the cows' hooves: in the middle there was a stick, the stake (*mourão*), on which a rope (*cobra*) was threaded. Five or six heads of cattle were tethered to it and they went round and round to separate the grain from the cereal stalks (wheat, rye or barley). Behind them walked a person with a container, the *pitcher* (usually a gourd cut lengthwise), catching the dung so as not to soil the cereal. The grain was winnowed on the threshing floor with the help of the wind and was then stored in the houses in bags, until such time as they wanted to bake bread. It was then taken to the windmill – of which there came to be six – or a mechanical grinder – of which there were two. In Caldeirão, where there are two lakes, there was also a water mill that made use of the drop in level between them. In the case of corn – which for a long time was the basic diet of Corvo – it was different: it was threshed by hand, with the help of neighbours. Many houses had a small hand mill that made a coarser grind for making “thick porridge”.



Just after the quern in a restored stone house, is the Corvo Natural and Cultural Interpretation Centre, and also the Portuguese Society for the Study of Birds (SPEA). Inside you can find a model of the island. Note that every year (especially in October) there is a veritable “pilgrimage” of birdwatchers to the island. The administration of the Corvo Ecomuseum is temporarily housed in the house on the left. Originally, the larger house was a residence and the smaller one a “chapo” or shop, i.e. a carpenter’s shop.



There are two other “twin” threshing floors at the top of the street. It is common to find two threshing floors together, in order to “speed up” the threshing process: when the cattle changed to the second floor to continue threshing new cereal, the straw was removed from the first and the grain was winnowed.



Carry straight on and go down to Fonte de Cima Street, which goes up until its end. There you can find the last of three washing tanks in the town (the others were the Pedras and the Jogo da Bola). Clothes were washed here, water was collected from the fountain for home use and cattle would drink from the outer tank. The wash tanks were, above all, a meeting place for the women.

A TOUR OF VILA DO CORVO in the TIME OF MANUEL CARLOS



Go back down part of the street and turn left onto Canada do Maurício, which goes down to Rego Street. At the end you can see an old Corvo house with a pigsty, an oven in the outer gable and a set of three threshing floors. Looking at the slope on the left of this house, a geological outcrop is visible, the Rego Rock, where the Corvo folk cut stone for the threshing floors and ovens.



Carry on along Rego Street and turn left onto Canada do Manquinho, which goes down until its end. Here, on the left, you can see an old house with a facade on which one can see two stones, cantilevered to support a wooden balcony (a rare piece of architecture in the town). On the right you can see a stone “skirt” at the base of a window (the only instance of this).



Continue down the Canto do Porto da Casa (somewhere here, the original church was built) and you will come to Porto da Casa Street, where you turn left. Upon arriving at the Largo das Pedras, at the top of the square, there are the ruins of a house where the future Time Museum of Corvo Ecomuseum will be built.



Go straight on until you come to Canada da Rocha, where you can admire the Porto da Casa bay, the scene of a clash against Berber pirates in which Corvo was victorious (1632). Carry straight on until the end, and pass between two threshing floors. Once there was one of the first windmills on the island here.



Turn right and you will come to the church. You must appreciate the stonework of the churchyard, which aims to reproduce the old paving. Inside, you can see the image of Our Lady of Miracles (Flemish image from the 16th century), to which is attributed the miracle of repelling the aforementioned attack of the Berber pirates. Go out the back of the churchyard and up Avenida Nova to Ribeirão Square, the starting point of this tour.

15 If you so wish, continue up Ribeirão Street. When you come to the bend in the road, turn to your left, where you will find the Craft House. There you can acquire handmade products, such as replicas of the traditional wooden lock and woollen cap, initially worn by Corvo men who were former whalers.



16 Immediately after, on the right, are the premises of Lacticorvo, where you can buy the famous Corvo cow's milk cheese.



Telescope offered by the pirate Almeida in 1819, to Father João Inácio Lopes.

“Corvo, a point on the sea, a dark island that rises 500 leagues from Europe, like a forward scout from our continent on the way to America, is an extinct volcano with steep slopes and verdant peaks.”

(Prince Albert I of Monaco)

“A crag and wind in the tremendous Atlantic loneliness.”

(Raul Brandão, on arrival)

“Over the centuries, the water has filled the craters, mosses
have taken back the ravines, the wind has rounded the slopes.”

(Fernando Dacosta)

“There is no rounder coast nor more upright and lofty
than this in the Azores.”

(João de Melo)



Porto Novo - 1900

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Governo dos Açores

SECRETARIA REGIONAL DA EDUCAÇÃO E CULTURA
Direção Regional da Cultura



*See in my calendar the thankful event,
A reason for great literary excitement:
September has brought a new anniversary
Of our great house, Nascimento.*

Victor Franzani
(translated)



Personalities

CULTURAL ROUTES OF THE
AZORES



MANUEL
CARLOS JORGE
DO NASCIMENTO

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